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*Patent Application Serial No. 10/589,129***AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A heat pump apparatus comprising:

a compressor for compressing a refrigerant;

a circulation duct for circulating drying air therein;

a radiator, disposed inside said circulation duct, for condensing the refrigerant to heat the drying air;

an evaporator, disposed inside said circulation duct, for evaporating the refrigerant to absorb heat from the drying air;

a first throttle apparatus and a second throttle apparatus for controlling the refrigerant pressure;

a heat exchanger, disposed inside said circulation duct and connected between said first throttle apparatus and said second throttle apparatus, [[for]] functioning as another radiator for condensing the refrigerant to heat the drying air or as another evaporator for evaporating the refrigerant to absorb heat from the drying air, depending on the refrigerant pressure controlled by said first throttle apparatus and said second throttle apparatus; and

a drying room, connected to said circulation duct thus constituting a circulatory path for the drying air, for offering a space to place a subject to be dried.

2. (canceled)

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3. (currently amended): The heat pump apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a discharge-pressure detector for detecting discharge pressure of said compressor, and a throttle-apparatus controller for controlling said first throttle apparatus and said second throttle apparatus depending on the discharge pressure detected by said discharge-pressure detector.

4. (currently amended): The heat pump apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a discharge-temperature detector for detecting discharge temperature of said compressor, and a throttle-apparatus controller for controlling said first throttle apparatus and said second throttle apparatus depending on the discharge temperature detected by said discharge-temperature detector.

5. (currently amended): The heat pump apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an air-temperature detector for detecting inlet air temperature of said evaporator, and a throttle-apparatus controller for controlling said first throttle apparatus and said second throttle apparatus depending on the inlet air temperature detected by said air-temperature detector.

6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented): The heat pump apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the refrigerant is carbon dioxide.

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8. (new): The heat pump apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said heat exchanger functions

as another radiator when the refrigerant pressure controlled by said first throttle apparatus and said second throttle apparatus is equal to or higher than a certain value and

as another evaporator when the refrigerant pressure controlled by said first throttle apparatus and said second throttle apparatus is lower than the certain value.

9. (new): The heat pump apparatus according to claim 1, comprising a refrigerant pipe connecting, in the following order, the compressor; the radiator; the first throttle apparatus; the heat exchanger; the second throttle apparatus; and the evaporator, in a series circuit of the refrigerant.